

Brookhaven. He and his department have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to the residents of Brookhaven. While his presence will be sorely missed, I know his legacy will live on through the programs he has developed and implemented through the years. On behalf of my office and the United States House of Representatives, I wish Chief Yandura all the best in his retirement and thank him once again for his decades of outstanding service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF
THE HONORABLE CAROLE
GROOM FROM THE SAN MATEO
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPER-
VISORS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend and colleague Carole Groom as she departs the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors after 13 years of service. The people of San Mateo County are losing a champion of children, healthcare, economic justice, and the environment.

Carole began her public service career on the City of San Mateo's public works and planning commissions. She was appointed to the city council in 2000 and won election to a full four-year term in 2001. She twice served as Mayor. Carole and her colleagues skillfully guided the Bay Meadows development through public reviews and controversy, and the result is a spectacular 83 acres of mixed-use development adjacent to a major rail station. It hosts 1,250 residential units and 1.25 million square feet of office space. She also supported the overlapping Rail Corridor Specific Plan that covered the area from Hillsdale Boulevard to the old Kmart site. That plan produced hundreds of new housing units, retail and office buildings at the old Kmart shopping center, serving as a regional example to emulate. As an avid booster of downtown San Mateo, she coined the saying, "If you can't find it in San Mateo, you don't need it." This remains an unofficial slogan of the city.

Carole was appointed to the Board of Supervisors in 2009 and formed the first board with women in the majority. She won a full four-year term in 2010. These were the darkest days of the housing recession. In her first comments as a member, she noted that she wanted to continue her work on the county's budget deficit and universal health coverage. Carole's priorities also included protecting parks and open space.

In 2009, she launched "Active San Mateo County" which convened an annual Fall conference exploring health and wellbeing, and that planned an annual countywide event, "Streets Alive! Parks Alive!" The county's parks and recreation directors recognized her with their "Champion of the Community" award in 2012.

Perhaps Carole's signature effort to boost economic justice in San Mateo County came through an innovative program known as "The Big Lift." It was a big lift to consider a countywide program to increase the percentage of third graders reading at grade level from 58 percent to 80 percent, but Carole, her board

colleagues and the county's superintendent of education took on the task. Key interventions included access to preschool, inspiring summer experiences, reducing chronic absenteeism, and increasing family engagement from preschool to third grade. The pandemic struck a blow to this noble effort, but it continues and undoubtedly paid off for thousands of children from 2013 to 2020 when classes were greatly disrupted.

Peninsula Clean Energy was the brainchild of Supervisors Pine and Groom. This countywide energy aggregator buys clean, renewable energy on the market and sells it to most businesses and households at 5 percent below the rates of our local utility. We all search for ways to reduce the cost of living and to improve the environment. The two Supervisors found a remarkable way to do both, and today the agency has expanded its offerings to include grants for purchases of energy efficient appliances.

Carole has deep roots in the health care system, having served as Vice President of Mills Peninsula Hospital for 18 years. She presently serves on the Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Hospital Board, the governing body for the San Mateo Medical Center. The hospital is a gem, and Carole Groom, as a skillful board member, is one of the finest jewelers in our community.

In addition to her work on the Board of Supervisors, she serves as a member of the California Coastal Commission, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and on the board of our local transit agency, Samtrans. If it thrives on our coast, Carole protects it. If it pollutes the air, Carole opposes it. If it glides on big axels down the El Camino Real and gives essential mobility to the disabled, our working poor and the elderly, Carole celebrates it.

Madam Speaker, we now say goodbye to a woman who everyone welcomes with joy when she walks into a room. We know that her heart was focused on policies that were fair and that protected the most vulnerable. It is said that on a clear day you can see forever. Carole saw the good in people, and her vision built a better life for millions over more than twenty years that she served our community and state. The woman who promoted reading to promote justice is now retiring. San Mateo County owes Supervisor Carole Groom its eternal appreciation. While she will be out of the limelight, Carole will remain in the hearts of all of us.

EXPRESSING THE COMMITMENT
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES TO BUILDING ON THE
TWENTY YEARS OF SUCCESS OF
THE GEORGE MCGOVERN-ROBERT
DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION
AND CHILD NUTRITION PRO-
GRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1156, expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to building on the 20 years of success of the

George McGovern-Robert Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program helps support education, child development and food security in low-income, food-deficit countries around the globe.

In 2017, there were 821 million people worldwide experiencing hunger. That is 1 in every 9 people.

Sixty-six million children are experiencing hunger worldwide every day. One in 6 children are food insecure.

According to UNICEF, approximately 3.1 million children globally die from undernutrition every year. It is estimated that every 10 seconds a child around the globe dies from hunger.

Even in the United States, hunger and food insecurity are major problems. In my home of Houston, almost 725,000 people experience food insecurity, which amounts to about 23 percent of Houston's households.

More than 500,000 Houstonians live in food deserts. These food deserts are found mostly in areas with limited transportation, lack of aid, and high unemployment rates.

Hunger is also tragic because it reflects economic and social inequity. In Houston, for example, food deserts are more likely to occur in primarily Black communities.

Lack of food doesn't just impact a child's hunger levels. Food insecurity stunts a child's growth and development and often children fall behind in school because they are unable to focus while experiencing hunger.

Children who experience food insecurity grow into adults with health complications that emerged from the lack of food.

As former Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus I worked to improve the lives of children not only in the United States, but globally because the children are the future, and we must do everything possible to protect them.

Global food insecurity is of great importance to me because, not only am I a longtime Member of the House Hunger Caucus, I represent the same Congressional District that had been represented by iconic leaders who fought to end hunger in the U.S. and globally.

I am proud to continue the historic legacy of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who was a champion for human dignity and fought for the rights of all people regardless of race, gender, heritage, or economic status, and Congressman Mickey Leland, who worked tirelessly to raise awareness of, and fight for, policies to end food insecurity around the globe and who, tragically, died in a plane crash while working to end world hunger on a relief mission in Ethiopia.

Starvation is a terrible thing. It's something that nobody should have to go through. And yet, there are people in this world who are starving right now as a consequence of natural disasters, war, and even as a tool of warfare.

In Pakistan, food deprivation is compounded by the human toll from recent floods and other natural disasters. Using drought to strategically exacerbate starvation is unacceptable.

The people of Ethiopia's Tigre Province are being subjected to a truly vile and malicious use of food deprivation in this way. The region was already suffering from drought, and when compounded by forced starvation from denial of access to food as a weapon of war, the effect is heinous and the consequences are unforgivable.